

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 06105 041544Z
ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-07 SS-15 /042 W

-----041728Z 128188 /46

R 041350Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6975

CONFIDENTIAL MOSCOW 6105

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS
SUBJECT: LOS - MESSAGE TO PRINCE SAUD FROM AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON

1. IF YOU PERCEIVE NO OBJECTIONS I WOULD APPRECIATE IT
IF YOU WOULD CONVEY THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FORM TO
PRINCE SAUD.

BEGIN TEXT: YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS: I WOULD LIKE TO
EXPRESS MY DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE HONOR YOU PAID ME
AND MY COLLEAGUES IN RECEIVING US IN YOUR HOME ON MAY 1.
I AM ESPECIALLY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR COURTESY IN RECEIVING
US ON THE DAY YOUR COUNTRY WAS CELEBRATING THE RETURN OF
HIS MAJESTY ON WHOSE RECOVERY MY COUNTRY REJOICES WITH
YOURS.

I VALUE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW WITH YOU SOME OF THE
MAJOR ISSUES OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE. I VALUE,
TOO, YOUR ASSURANCES THAT SAUDI ARABIA SEES MANY OF THESE
ISSUES IN THE SAME LIGHT AS DOES MY GOVERNMENT.

I WAS PLEASED TO HEAR THAT YOU, AS WE, ATTACH
HIGH IMPORTANCE TO THE EARLY CONCLUSION OF A WIDELY
ACCEPTABLE TREATY ON THE LAW OF THE SEA, AND I AM
ENCOURAGED TO BELIEVE THAT AN ACCOMMODATION OF VIEWS
CAN BE REACHED AT THE NEXT SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 06105 041544Z

AS I NOTED TO YOU, THE MOST DIFFICULT OUTSTANDING
ISSUES ARE THOSE RELATING TO THE REGIMES FOR EXPLOI-
TATION OF THE DEEP SEABED. THESE MUST BE SUCCESS-
FULLY RESOLVED BEFORE WE CAN ACHIEVE THE KIND OF
COMPREHENSIVE TREATY WHICH WILL PROTECT VITAL INTERESTS
OF BOTH SAUDI ARABIA AND THE UNITED STATES. I THINK
WE BOTH AGREE THAT AN ACCEPTABLE LAW OF THE SEA

TREATY MUST, AS THE PRESENT DRAFT TEXT LARGELY DOES, ENSURE FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION AND FREE PASSAGE OF STRAITS AND ARCHIGELAGOS. SUCH A TREATY WOULD ALSO ARREST THE TREND TOWARD EROSION OF HIGH SEAS FREEDOMS IN AREAS BEYOND THE TERRITORIAL SEA WHICH IS ALREADY MAKING ALARMING HEADWAY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

ACCEPTING, AS I THINK WE BOTH DO, THAT MAXIMUM HIGH SEAS FREEDOMS ARE VITAL INTERESTS OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES, I WOULD RESPECTFULLY SUGGEST TO YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS, AS I DID IN OUR CONVERSATION, THAT A CERTIFIED EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE BY OUR TWO COUNTRIES, WHICH BEAR HEAVY INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES, TO MOVE THE CONFERENCE TO FIND COMMON GROUND ON THE ISSUE OF DEEP SEABED MINERAL RESOURCE EXPLOITATION.

SAUDI ARABIA'S GREAT INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE, PARTICULARLY AMONG HER ARAB NEIGHBORS, GIVES HER A UNIQUE POSITION OF LEADERSHIP. I HOPE YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS WILL AGREE THAT AT THIS CRITICAL MOMENT FOR THE LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE SAUDI ARABIA SHOULD EXERCISE A DECISIVE INFLUENCE ON THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE BY ACTIVELY URGING COUNSELS OF MODERATION IN THE GROUP OF ARAB STATES. I ASSURE YOU THAT MY GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE A DETERMINED AND FORTHCOMING EFFORT TO BRING ABOUT A SOUND SOLUTION OF THE SEABEDS ISSUE.

I AM CONVINCED THAT TOGETHER WE CAN ADVANCE OUR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 06105 041544Z

SHARED INTERESTS, WHICH ARE ESSENTIALLY THOSE OF A GREAT MAJORITY OF THE NATIONS PARTICIPATING IN THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH DR. MADANI AND THE SAUDI DELEGATION WHEN THE CONFERENCE RESUMES ITS WORK IN NEW YORK LATER THIS MONTH.

I HOPE THAT YOU AND HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE FAHD WILL HAVE AN ENJOYABLE AND PRODUCTIVE VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES. YOU WILL, I KNOW, BE MOST WARMLY WELCOMED.

PLEASE ACCEPT, YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS, THE ASSURANCE OF MY HIGHEST ESTEEM.

SINCERELY, SIGNED ELLIOT L. RICHARDSON. END TEXT.

2. MY COLLEAGUES AND I THANK YOU AND YOUR JIDDA AND RIYADH STAFFS VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE AND

COURTESIES DURING OUR RECENT VISIT. WITH KIND
REGARDS.
TOON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, LAW OF THE SEA, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW06105
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770156-0744
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770596/aaaadeoc.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a65a8c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION DLOS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2645413
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOS - MESSAGE TO PRINCE SAUD FROM AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON
TAGS: PLOS, US, UR, (RICHARDSON, ELLIOT L), (SAUD, PRINCE)
To: JIDDA
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a65a8c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009